

The Police Department of the Island
of Aruba, Netherlands Antilles:
Organization and Nature of Law Enforcement Activities.

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Anthropology
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Prof. Malenfant:

I had planned to bring this into school before the 30th, but I got a job in Puerto Rico and will not be returning to New York for the summer. - I'm afraid that Brucka spoiled me. I can't leave all this sunshine.

Have a nice summer. I enjoyed your course very much.

Regards,

Lynn Flora

Dear Lynn:

This is a very good summary,
and there is a lot of descriptive detail.
However, you do not state why such a
summary has any anthropological
significance!

B.

This paper outlines the organizational structure and *operations* of the Korps Politie Nederlandse Antillen - Eiland Aruba - and the nature of law enforcement activities and crime on Aruba.

Organization - Netherlands Antilles

Each of the four territories of the Netherlands Antilles: Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, and the three Windward Islands, St. Maarten, St. Eustatius, and Saba, known as "eiland" territories, are autonomous in internal affairs and the eiland executive branch consists of a Lt. Governor and his deputies. The eiland territories together, referred to as the "Land" (Dutch word for country), are controlled centrally by the Governor who is the representative of the Queen and he maintains his offices in the capitol of the "Land", Willemstad, Curacao. Law enforcement, including the police and justice departments, is considered an affair of the "Land" and is under the central control of the Governor in Willemstad. Each eiland territory police department is controlled locally by a Chief of Police and the organization and structure of the Police Department of Aruba will be described in detail.

In outlining generally the Justice Department, each eiland territory has one or more District Attorneys called "Officier van Justitie" who comes under the direction of the Attorney General, "Procureur General", in Willemstad. The Procureur General is responsible to the Minister of Justice in The Hague. Aruba, specifically, has one District Attorney and one Deputy District Attorney. Each eiland territory

has a "Gerecht en Eerste Aanleg", literally Court in the *First Instance*. The judges of each Court in the First Instance belong to the "Hof van Justitie", the higher court which meets in Willemstad. All the judges of the Netherlands Antilles are the "Hof van Justitie", and seated separately from the Gerecht en Eerste Aanleg (Court of the First Instance).

As stated, this paper is more specifically concerned with the organization of the police department and the nature of crime and law enforcement activities on the eiland territory of Aruba.

Korps Politie Nederlandse Antillen - Eiland Aruba

The Korps Politie Nederlandse Antillen of the eiland Aruba has jurisdiction over 190 square kilometers and a population of approximately 6,000. Operations are conducted on a decentralized system from eight main departments or buildings. While proposals have been made to change the present system to a centralized control scheme, the present system is considered most efficient by the police administrators. A centralized system is deemed impracticable for the maintenance of law enforcement services because of the geographic location of large residential areas and the shortage of qualified police personnel. The Police Department is also responsible for firefighting, and, while their record of fire control is excellent and the Fire Brigade remains sufficient under Police Department control, most police officials feel it is an added burden which hampers efficient police operations. It is considered a negative influence for personnel with the added obligations from the requirement

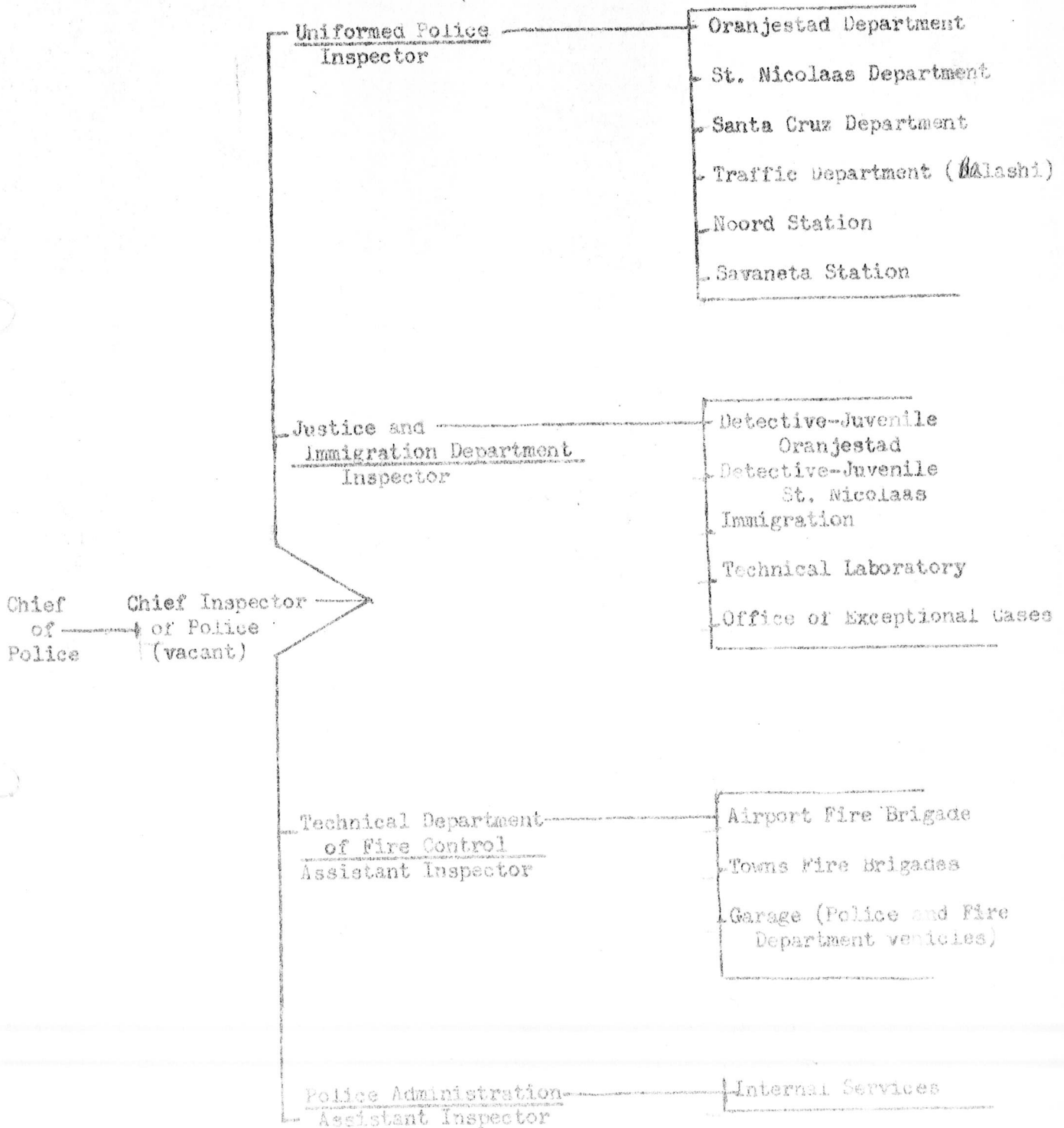
that all police personnel must be trained in the use of fire equipment and in firefighting methods. A shortage of personnel is also a problem at this time.

Departmental Structure

The departmental structure of the Police Department of Aruba is shown on Diagrams 1 and 2 (immediately following). Diagram 1 shows the departmental scheme in relation to administrative posts and related offices. Diagram 2 shows distribution of offices and services among the eight police headquarters. Presently the office of the Chief Inspector of Police (Hoofdinspecteur van Politie) is vacant. The Police Stations of Noord and Savaneta are presently out of operations due to lack of personnel.

Diagram 3, the map of Aruba, shows the relative locations of the various Police Departments. In addition to the eight stations (two at Prinses Beatrix Airport), POVA, the Police Club, (two locations) and the target practice range at Wela are indicated on the map.

Departmental Structure



Departmental Distribution by Location

Police Station
Oranjestad

Chief of Police
Chief Inspector of Police (vacant)
Asst. Inspector General Service
Police Administration
Uniformed Police Department - Inspector
Uniformed Police Brigade - Oranjestad
Justice and Immigration Department - Inspector
Detective Department - Oranjestad
Juvenile Welfare - Oranjestad
Immigration
Technical Investigation (Laboratory)
Special Services
Internal Services

Police Station
St. Nicolaas

Uniformed Police Brigade - St. Nicolaas
Detective Department - St. Nicolaas
Juvenile Welfare - St. Nicolaas

Santa Cruz Station

Empty

Noord Station

Empty

Traffic Department
Balashi

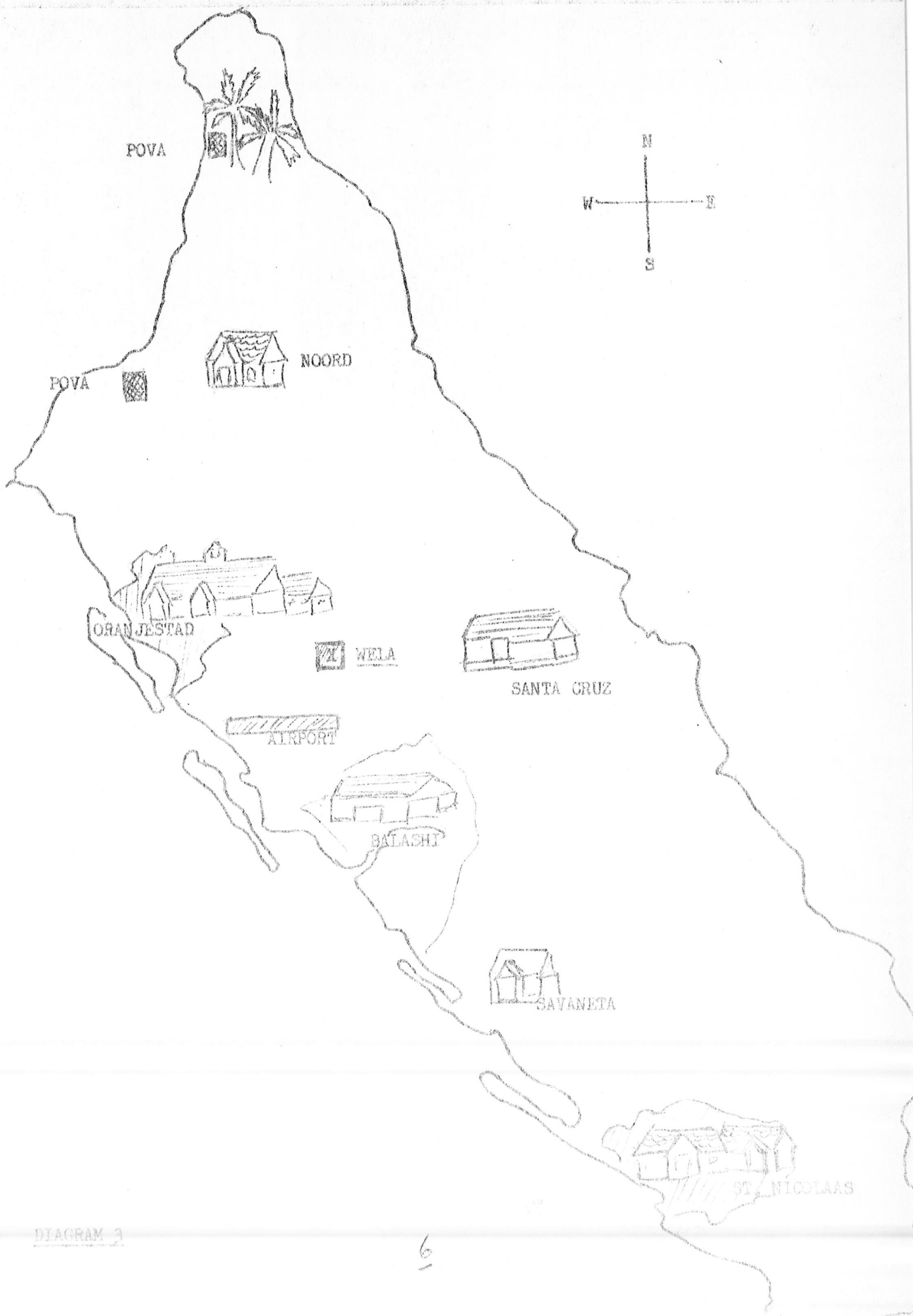
Traffic Police Brigade

Airport Station

Immigrations Department

Airport Garage

Technical Department of Fire Control



Personnel

The latest available statistics on police personnel reported that as of December 31, 1967 there were 194 personnel. The following breakdown of personnel by office shows the expected force and actual count. There was at that time and still is a shortage of 15 first class and regular policemen, and the post of Chief Inspector is vacant.

	<u>Expected</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Chief of Police	1	1
Chief Inspector	1	1
Inspectors	2	2
Assistant Inspectors	9	9 (+2 extras)
Officers	19	19 (+1 extra)
First Class and Regular Police	119	104
Administrative Personnel	20	20
Fire Department Personnel (island)	15	15
Fire Department Personnel (Land)	6	6
Laborers	6	6
Housekeeping personnel	9	9

The average employee absence rate over 1967 (latest available statistics) was 2 1/2 days per employee a year. The shortage of personnel within the Police Department makes it necessary for policemen to work many overtime hours. Overtime personnel are required particularly for special events, carnival, elections, guarding ships, sports events, etc. In 1967

alone, 19,998 hours of overtime were paid out. This is *an average* of approximately 100 overtime hours per employee.

Training and examinations are given yearly for Assistant Inspectors and Officers. First Class policemen are eligible for officer training. In 1967, seven out of 10 eligible officer candidates passed the examination. All police personnel are required to attend target practice twice a month at the practice lanes of Wela (see Diagram 3). Practice is concentrated in the use of pistols. Competition practice is held at the end of each year.

The heads of departments meet quarterly to discuss personnel problems of general concern.

Ontspennings
POVA, Politie Ontspennings Vereniging Aruba, is the police recreation club on Aruba (see Diagram 3 for two locations). POVA has 128 "normal" (police personnel) members and 126 outside members. Two locations provide a social club and a private beach. POVA provides recreation for the children of police personnel, organizes dances, sports events, rallies, social gatherings, and special interest clubs. The POVA Judo Club was honored at the Pan American Games in Winnipeg when their representative in the Heavy-weight Judo match, First Class Policeman E. D. Nicolaas, won a bronze medal. *a/*

Police personnel also publish a monthly newspaper, "Schakel", with news of personnel and POVA activities.

Approximately 60 houses are now provided by the Police Department for employees. These government-built houses are provided at low rents

for policemen with families. Each house has an alarm bell located either in the house or nearby outside. These alarm bells are coordinated with the central fire alarm system.

Police Equipment

As of December 31, 1967 the Police Department of Aruba operated the following vehicles (list does not include fire equipment):

Automobiles (passenger)	25
Jeeps	3
Small busses	5
Large vans	2
Pick-up truck	1
Tow truck	1
motorcycles	4
Motorcycles with sidecars	2
Police boat	1

All police vehicles are equipped with "mobilophones" for communication with each station. All police communication services are maintained by ITT. Policemen are also equipped with "portophones" for fast communications away from their vehicles.

Fire Department

The Firefighting Division of the Police Department consists of

of seven men from police personnel assigned to the fire department, including one assistant inspector of the Technical Department of Fire Control, one police officer and five First Class policemen. In addition there are 22 permanent civilian employees of the fire department who fill technical positions. All policemen are trained as firemen and serve as such whenever necessary. The following is a breakdown of fire equipment. The Fire Brigade is divided into two sections: the Central Fire Brigade and the Airport Fire Brigade. The second breakdown of equipment is distribution by station.

Central Fire Brigade

5 Low pressure fire engines
3 High pressure fire engines
2 Tank trucks
1 Ladder truck (48 feet)

Total 11

Airport Fire Brigade

3 Crash tenders
1 Dry powder truck
1 Tool truck
1 Pick-up truck

Total 6

Equipment Distribution by Station

Oranjestad -	1 high pressure truck, 1 low pressure truck 1 tank truck, 1 ladder truck.
St. Nicolaas -	1 high pressure truck, 1 low pressure truck, 1 tank truck (largest tank truck in case of fire at Lago Refinery)
Savaneta -	1 low pressure truck
Novod -	1 low pressure truck
Costa Cruz	1 high pressure truck

The Fire Department also maintains 3 1/2 kilometers of various size hoses. All fire equipment is maintained by the technical department of the Fire Division. Aruba has 282 fire hydrants. These hydrants are all under ground and are charted for police reference only.

Fire Department services include inspection of hotel, restaurant, theater and store fire exits and extinguishers, inspection and maintenance of direct alarm systems in carpenter shops and gas works; control of the sale and use of fireworks (limited number of legal days), as well as inspection of fireworks and explosives warehousing conditions. The Fire Department also maintains approximately 350 fire extinguishers in government buildings.

Each police employee is trained as a fire engine chauffer and in the use of all fire equipment. Each employee must drill at least once a month. At the Airport, all police and civilian personnel drill once a week in the use of the crash tenders and dry powder truck. All employees must be familiar with the alarm regulations of the airport Brigade.

Since 1963 the number of alarms is as follows:

1963	-	133	alarms
1964	-	106	"
1965	-	114	"
1966	-	91	"
1967	-	251	"

Most of the alarms are curuch and garbage fires. In 1967, only 9 of the 251 alarms were false alarms and 5 were small airport fires. On an average the greatest number of alarms are received in May and June of each year.

Special Police Services

A special service of the Traffic Department is the training program and safety examination given to grade school children to prevent traffic accidents involving school children. In 1967 the Traffic Department examined 1800 school children and in cooperation with the Lions Club rewarded the children with a fieldtrip and safety diplomas. This program has been very successful in acquainting children with traffic safety regulations.

The Technical Services Department offers technical advice to people requesting business permits.

Justice Department

The Justice Department is responsible for charging a suspected law offender and bringing him to court. As stated previously, Aruba has one District Attorney and one Assistant District Attorney. The Department issues a "process-verbaal" charging a person with either a crime (misdrijven) or a violation (overtredingen). In 1967, 815 "process-verbaals" were issued.

Crime and Enforcement

Diagram 4 (following page) shows a breakdown of various crimes for the year 1967. The chart covers the two Justice Department offices of Oranjestad and St. Nicolaas. Each of the two offices is divided into the Detective Department and the Juvenile Department.

In each instance, column A represents crimes reported and column B crimes *actually* solved.

Crime Breakdown 1967

	Detective Oranjestad		Juvenile		Detective St. Nicolaas		Juvenile	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
Disorderly conduct	3	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
Sadistic Actions	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Disrespecting Authority	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-
Perjury	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
Forgery	20	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sexual Crimes	-	-	13	11	3	3	13	10
Offending	28	28	-	-	19	19	-	-
Crime Against Personal Freedom	17	17	1	1	15	15	-	-
Crime Against Life	3	3	-	-	2	2	-	-
Ill-treatment	104	99	1	1	126	126	2	2
Death by Fault (Murder)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Simple Theft	164	70	19	12	60	29	30	23
Qualified Theft	55	33	20	16	57	32	42	21
Petty larceny	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Grand larceny	12	12	-	-	3	3	1	1
Fraud	5	5	-	-	4	4	-	-
Destruction	44	30	13	7	17	11	4	4
Aiding a Criminal	2	2	-	-	5	5	3	3
Other Crimes	19	19	2	2	14	14	-	-
TOTAL	480	329	69	50	333	270	95	64
% Solved	69%		72%		81%		67%	

Misuse of Alcohol

While the various crimes listed on Diagram 4 are a major concern to the police, the greatest single problem for the police on Aruba is the misuse of alcohol.

In 1967, 1,633 people were locked up for one night for being drunk. These binges brought little damage, however, people behind the wheel drunk cost 2 lives, 83 injured and over fl. 200,000. worth of material damage. Besides investigating 163 accidents, police arrested 177 drunken drivers before accidents occurred. Over 170 persons were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Diagram 5 (following page) is a count by month of the various cases involving misuse of alcohol and requiring police assistance. The average per month is 262 assists on cases stemming from the misuse of alcohol, with a total of 3144 such instances.

On the average statistics show that the highest rates of assistance required on a case involving the misuse of alcohol occur in the months of March, April, May, October and December. December has the highest rate. In December of 1967, over 350 police assists were made in the investigation of crimes from the misuse of alcohol. Over the days of the week, Friday begins a sharp rise in the rate of assists with Saturday and Sunday the two highest days and Monday the start (Monday still very high is cases) of a slow decline in the problem of misuse of alcohol. The hours between 9 pm and 4 am also show a concentrated burden for the police in handling crimes resulting from the misuse of alcohol. It is estimated that 3 policemen are on duty every hour, 24 hours a day handling situations arising from the misuse of alcohol on Aruba.

Police Assists on Various Crimes

	Public Drunkenness	Drunk Driving pros. n. pros.	Accidents	Fights	Domestic Fights	Other	Total
January	98	16 - 10	12	24	25	35	220
February	149	11 - 9	13	21	18	30	251
March	157	21 - 12	15	20	24	33	282
April	153	17 - 16	18	18	16	41	281
May	139	14 - 18	14	17	27	40	269
June	120	17 - 6	12	16	22	27	220
July	129	15 - 17	13	20	20	28	242
August	110	8 - 13	13	23	30	32	229
September	140	17 - 10	16	17	30	37	267
October	149	14 - 11	19	11	23	60	297
November	127	14 - 14	7	10	34	43	249
December	152	13 - 32	31	12	42	55	337
	1633	177 - 170	183	209	311	461	3144

APPENDIX

The information for this paper was compiled from interviews with several members of the police department and with the help of two Aruban civilian translators.

Two interviews, one hour each, were held with H. D. Van Der Griendt, Inspecteur Van Politie, Detective Department, Oranjestad. Inspector Van Der Griendt was extremely helpful and willing to cooperate in any way possible to help me get necessary information. He discussed in detail the organization of the Netherlands Antilles government as well as the operational procedures and structure of the Police Department of Aruba. Inspector Van Der Griendt was most helpful in offering a copy of the 1967 Annual Police Report to be used in confidence to obtain information and statistics for the paper. The 1968 report is not published until late June of 1969.

The police report is not available to the general public but reserved for police personnel. The Inspector requested that I use the report only for research reference and not distribute the report to the general public.

Diagrams 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are taken from the report, but have been translated into English from Dutch. All statistics taken from the report have been used out of direct context and are not direct quotes. The entire report is written in Dutch.

Albert Walponzas Bernhardtstad, St. Nicholas, acted as translator and spent a total of six hours with me translating significant information from the police annual report.

Important information about the Police Department was obtained in interviews with First Class Policeman Theo Berleider, Detective Division, Oranjestad Police Station. Two one hour interviews were held.

Two hours of translating was done with Genes Vieira, Santa Cruz 14, Santa Cruz.

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